

WATERPRO INCORPORATED APPLICATION

Docket No. 20-2443-01

TELECONFERENCE PUBLIC WITNESS HEARING

July 29, 2020

ADVANCED REPORTING SOLUTIONS

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Teleconference Public Witness Hearing
July 29, 2020

1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

2 -ooOoo-

3 In Re: WATERPRO :
4 INCORPORATED APPLICATION Docket No. 20-2443-01
5 FOR RATE INCREASE :
6 Presiding Officer:
7 : Yvonne Hogle
8 :
9 :

10 TELECONFERENCE PUBLIC WITNESS HEARING

11 Taken on Wednesday, July 29, 2020

12 at 1:00 p.m.

13
14 At Public Service Commission of Utah
15 160 East 300 South
16 4th Floor
17 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

18
19
20 Reported by: Abigail D.W. Johnson, RPR, CRR, CRC

A P P E A R A N C E S

For the THE UTAH DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:

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Also Present:

Joshua Bean
Darrin Jensen-Peterson
Peggy Crump
Steve Wood

1 July 29, 2020

1:00 p.m.

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 -o0o-

4 MS. HOGLE: Good afternoon, today is
5 July 29, 2020, and it is 1:00. This is the date and
6 time set for the public witness hearing in the matter of
7 WaterPro, Inc. application increase in Docket
8 No. 20-2443-01. Do we have anyone on the telephone, who
9 is a public witness, who would like to say anything
10 regarding WaterPro's application?

11 MS. CRUMP: Do we just speak out when we
12 hear you?

13 MS. HOGLE: What I need you to do is for you
14 to please state your name.

15 MS. CRUMP: Okay.

16 MS. HOGLE: And then give a recitation of
17 whatever your comments may be, please.

18 THE WITNESS: My name is Peggy Crump. I
19 live on Willow Springs Lane. I just wanted to listen to
20 all that you have to share with us today. And then if I
21 have any comments, I will speak at the end, but I just
22 wanted to listen. Thank you.

23 MS. HOGLE: Okay. Miss Crump. Can you
24 spell your name, please, for the record?

25 THE WITNESS: Peggy, P-e-g-g-y, Crump,

1 C-r-u-m-p.

2 MS. HOGLE: Thank you, Ms. Crump. The
3 evidentiary part of the hearing or the evidentiary
4 hearing was held this morning at 11:00. This portion of
5 the hearing is the public witness hearing. And all that
6 we are doing at this time is taking public comment on
7 WaterPro's application. So you will not hear anything
8 regarding the application, other than from public
9 witnesses as yourself.

10 So, please take this opportunity to make any
11 comment that you wish regarding the application because
12 there will be no other comment from the applicant or
13 anyone else that took part this morning at 11:00.

14 MS. CRUMP: Okay. Thank you. I have no
15 comment.

16 MR. WOOD: My name is Steve Wood. That is
17 S-t-e-v-e W-o-o-d. I am a Draper resident and I, like
18 Peggy, was hoping to better understand the reasons for a
19 rate increase. Obviously, the newsletter did not cover
20 that nor the proposed amount of the rate increase. And
21 I guess my question is; why weren't citizens allowed to
22 observe, listen or have information as to what WaterPro
23 is proposing and the amount of the rate increases
24 they're proposes versus doing it behind closed doors in
25 the dark, and then having a public comment meeting when,

1 basically, everything is pretty much said and done
2 already?

3 MS. HOGLE: Thank you, Mr. Wood. This is
4 Yvonne Hogle, the presiding officer in this docket. I
5 will tell you as far as the Commission is concerned
6 there were appropriate notices, public notices, that
7 were provided to the public, who will be affected by
8 this rate increase and everything that we received from
9 utilities, including water utilities, is on our website.
10 But I believe that in addition to that, there were some
11 notices and bills that were provided to citizens who
12 will be affected by WaterPro's application. So,
13 therefore, what we're addressing here was not done in
14 any way under closed doors. It's been an open process.

15 THE WITNESS: Ma'am --

16 MS. HOGLE: At this time, I would like to
17 give -- At this time, I would like to give an
18 opportunity to Mr. Jensen-Peterson to provide details
19 about any notices that he is aware of that were provided
20 to the citizens who will be affected by this rate
21 increase if he so wishes. He doesn't have to if he's on
22 the phone or also, the Division of Public Utilities if
23 they are on, I would also invite them to comment on
24 this, specifically regarding the notices that were given
25 to citizens who will be affected by this applicant's

1 application for a rate increase. And then I will give
2 you an opportunity, Mr. Wood.

3 MR. WOOD: Thank you.

4 MR. JENSEN-PETERSON: This is Darrin
5 Jensen-Peterson general manager of WaterPro. We did
6 send out in our July 1st notification regarding one, the
7 hearing and then information regarding to go to our
8 website to find all information regarding this. In
9 that -- On our website, we have our -- where it talks
10 about the public notice and then the proposed rate
11 increase listing what the rates are going to -- in
12 effect showing that it's a 5 percent increase across the
13 board. So that information was given out within a
14 timely manner prior to this.

15 MS. HOGLE: I apologize. I wasn't sure if
16 you were done. Go ahead, Mr. Jensen-Peterson.

17 MR. JENSEN-PETERSON: Also, within the
18 newsletter and on the website, we did indicate that if
19 anyone had any concerns or comments to contact us
20 directly at the office. And prior to this meeting and
21 still after this meeting, I am more than happy to sit
22 down with any of our residents or on the phone, more or
23 less -- we're not doing in-person any longer -- to go
24 over the reasons for the increases, our last increase
25 was in 2017, why we felt that it was important to

1 continue to go forward with this increase. This -- This
2 is a process with working with the Division and the
3 Commission that started when we had our approval back as
4 far as with -- our board approved the rates at the end
5 of 2019 and then started the process in January. It's
6 quite a lengthy process going and working with the
7 Division. But we tried to give as much information as
8 we possibly could once we knew where we were going to
9 be, which we didn't come into a settlement agreement
10 with the Division until the end of June, and that's when
11 we went forward going to show what we were proposing
12 moving forward with this rate increase. That's all I
13 have.

14 MS. HOGLE: Thank you, Mr. Jensen-Peterson.
15 Does the Division of Public Utilities wish address
16 Mr. Wood's concern at this time?

17 MS. SCHMID: This is Patricia Schmid, the
18 attorney representing the Division. The Division worked
19 with WaterPro to facility notice to the customers and
20 the Division has nothing to add to WaterPro's comments
21 today.

22 MS. HOGLE: Okay. Mr. Wood, but I -- before
23 I let you respond to that, let me also tell you that
24 even after we close this public witness hearing, you
25 also still have an opportunity to provide written

1 comments once you have reviewed the information that
2 Mr. Jensen-Peterson referenced just a little while ago,
3 and the commission will take that into consideration
4 when it considers the settlement stipulation that was
5 also referenced, but please, go ahead.

6 MR. WOOD: Thank you. I have your
7 newsletter that came with the water billing for July.
8 And it's titled, "July Current Events." In there, it
9 does state that if you wish to participate or make any
10 comments you can do so on a telephone call on July
11 the 29th, today, which I am on. It also says that if
12 you have more information, you can go to our website
13 www.WaterPro.net. I visited that site, and I was unable
14 to access any information relevant to a price increase.
15 I did not attempt multiple times to do that. I did,
16 upon receipt of this notice, attempt to do that. I was
17 unable, again, to get any information off the website.

18 Obviously, I think that things were done.
19 If you already negotiated in June well before this
20 notice came out -- again, my statement stands, or my
21 feelings stand, this was developed, decided and,
22 evidently, approved back in June then the public gets
23 the opportunity to comment. That's all I have to say.
24 Thank you.

25 MS. HOGLE: Thank you, Mr. Wood. This is

1 Yvonne Hogle again, the presiding officer in this
2 appearing. One thing that I will let you know is that
3 the settlement stipulation has not been approved. It is
4 before the Public Service Commission for consideration.
5 I would also like you to -- if you have a pen and
6 notebook handy to write down this website that I'm going
7 to give you. It's www- --

8 MR. WOOD: One moment, please. One moment,
9 please. I'm getting a pen.

10 MS. HOGLE: Okay.

11 MR. WOOD: Thank you. I'm ready to write.

12 MS. HOGLE: www.psc.utah.gov. And when you
13 access the website you will see links at the top that
14 say, "Electric, Gas, Telecom, Water." You click on the
15 "Water" and then go to the 2020 docket. Click on that.
16 And then go to Docket 20-2443-01. And there you will
17 have all of the information that you need concerning
18 WaterPro's application. And if you have any comments
19 after you read the application and everything that is --
20 that followed the application, please feel free to
21 either call the Public Service Commission at
22 801-530-6716 or you can file something electronically
23 regarding any comments that you may have on WaterPro's
24 application. Okay?

25 MR. WOOD: I'm assuming that the website and

1 the location that you directed me to, that will contain
2 all the relevant financial information as well --

3 MS. HOGLE: It will.

4 MR. WOOD: -- which justifies -- It will?
5 Okay. Thank you very much.

6 MS. HOGLE: It will. Thank you.

7 MR. BEAN: This is Josh Bean. I am going to
8 interject with a comment. That website, I believe,
9 there is no "www" in front of it. I believe that it is
10 just psc.utah.gov, but you can verify that.

11 MS. HOGLE: Okay. Did you catch that
12 Mr. Wood?

13 MR. WOOD: I did. Thank you.

14 MS. HOGLE: Okay. Do we have any other
15 public witnesses on the telephone who wish to provide
16 public comment?

17 Okay. At this time, I would like everybody
18 to put your phones on mute, and let's just wait ten
19 minutes. I have -- Let's just wait until 1:25 to make
20 sure that there's not anybody else who wishes to comment
21 on this, and then we will be back on at 1:25.

22 If the reporter can just stay put, we would
23 be grateful, and let's just reconvene. Everybody put
24 your telephone on mute until 1:25. Thank you.

25 (Recess was taken.)

1 MS. HOGLE: This is Yvonne Hogle, again.
2 Has anyone else joined us from the public that would
3 like to comment? Okay. I'm going to go back on mute
4 and wait until 1:25. Thank you.

5 (Recess was taken.)

6 MS. HOGLE: This is Yvonne Hogle, again. Do
7 we have anyone on the line who wishes to make a public
8 comment concerning WaterPro's application and the
9 stipulation in this case? Okay. I'm not hearing
10 anyone. We waited for ten minutes, I believe. And so I
11 will go ahead and close the public witness hearing right
12 now. Thank you everybody who joined us and for your
13 comments. We are adjourned.

14 (Adjourned at 1:26 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF UTAH)
)
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE)

I, ABIGAIL D.W. JOHNSON, a Certified
Shorthand Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter,
hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing proceedings were taken
before me at the time and place therein set forth, at
which time the witness was placed under oath to tell the
truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that
the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and
thereafter my notes were transcribed through
computer-aided transcription; and the foregoing
transcript constitutes a full, true, and accurate record
of such testimony adduced and oral proceedings had, and
of the whole thereof.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative
or employee of any attorney of the parties, nor do I
have a financial interest in the action.

I have subscribed my name on this
3rd day of August, 2020.



ABIGAIL D.W. JOHNSON, RPR, CRR, CRC

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